



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Study Title: Potential Gender Bias in University Students regarding Information Processing

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Purpose:

You are being asked to participate in a research study that is part of the University of British Columbia Faculty of Science course *Communicating Science* (SCIE 300). This project provides students with an opportunity to collect, analyze, and present their own research data. One option for this research study is for groups of university students to conduct 3 exercises – (1) auditory processing, (2) phonetic and spatial processing, and (3) visual processing. You are being asked to participate in these exercises. You must be a university student and 19 years of age or older to participate in this study.

Study procedures:

If you decide to be a part of the study, it will take approximately 10 minutes of your time and the following general procedures will occur:

Before the 3 exercises, you will be asked to complete a quick survey regarding your:

- age
- gender
- field of study
- level of education in university
- medical conditions (involving hearing, vision, speaking, or spatial activity)

These surveys will be linked to your responses in the following exercises below. The study will not ask for your name in recording your responses in the exercises and surveys. However, to keep track of which responses correspond to which survey, an arbitrary label, such as "Participant 1" will be used.

(1) Auditory Processing:

In this exercise, you will be asked to use a pair of headphones to listen to certain words. However, the words coming out of the left headphone will be different than the word coming out of the right headphone. There will be 10 pairs of words, 5 of which will be pairs of short-short words and 5 will be long-long words. After listening to each pair of words, you will be asked to identify both words to the best of your ability. Your responses will be recorded.

(2) Phonetic and Spatial Processing:

In this exercise, you will be asked to use a pair of headphones to listen to certain sentences. As you are listening to these sentences, you will be asked to repeat them out loud. At the same time, you will also be asked to organize a deck of cards in a particular pattern. The numbers of errors you make in each task will be recorded, and the completion of only the spatial task will be timed; the phonetic task will be continuous until participants complete the spatial task.

(3) Visual processing

In a split screen setting, two different, simple objects will be displayed for a short moment (1 second), one on the left and one on the right. You will be asked to reproduce the contents of both screens. Your response will be recorded.

You can decide to stop at any time. Just tell the study if you wish to stop being in the study. Also, the study researcher staff person may stop you from taking part in this study at any time if he or she believes it is in your best interest, if you do not follow the study rules, or if the study is stopped.

Potential risks:

There are no potential risks to the subjects.

Potential benefits:

There are no potential benefits to the subjects. However, students will gain experience designing, performing and reporting upon scientific investigations.

Confidentiality:

Each group will be required to come up with a password that they will use to protect their data files (e.g. Word, Excel files) that only group members (and instructors in this case) will know. Student co-investigators will be asked to transfer the data (electronic or otherwise) to the PI at the conclusion of the course. At this time, any copies of the electronic data still possessed by students will be deleted. The PI will ensure the data is retained for at least five years. Data will be stored on a password-protected external hard drive located in the PI's UBC office and back-up copies burned to a disc which will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in the PI's office. After at least five years has passed, files will be deleted and discs erased to ensure confidentiality.

Contact for information about the study:

If you have any questions or desire further information with respect to this study, you may contact Pedram Laghaei (pedramlaghaei@gmail.com, 604-765-9626). He or a member of the study's research team listed in the co-investigator section will explain this study to you.

Contact for concerns about the rights of research subjects:

If you have any concerns about your treatment or rights as a research subject, you may contact the Research Subject Information Line in the UBC Office of Research Services at 604-822-8589 or if long distance email RSIL@ors.ubc.ca or call toll free 1-877-822-8598.

Consent:

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you may refuse to participate or withdraw from the study at any time without jeopardy to your class standing.

Your signature below indicates that you have received a copy of this consent form for your records.

Your signature indicates that you consent to participate in this study and that you are a university student (aged 19 years old or older).

Subject signature

Date